

whose latest contribution to surgical literature forms the first paper in the volume.

II. This volume contains the record of the work of the New York Medical Association at its first session after its organization, held in New York City in November, 1884. It is a large and handsome octavo, of 654 pages, including an index. It is edited by Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., and shows the signs of the oversight of a practiced book-maker, in the fullness of all the details required to make such a book perfect. A considerable proportion of the contributions are of a surgical nature, mostly quite brief, the greater number being reports of cases, with reflections suggested by the same. More elaborate are two papers on Transfusion, one by Dr. E. M. Moore, of Rochester, and one by Dr. J. C. Hutchison, of Brooklyn. The chief idea of the first writer is to show the importance of reducing to a minimum the time required for the complete operation of drawing from the vein of the donor the blood, and injecting it into the vein of the recipient. He concludes that fresh blood in but small quantity should be used, and for facilitating the operation he describes a new apparatus. In the second paper a review of recent literature of the subject of transfusion is given, the writer accepting the conclusions that the important element in transfusion is the restoration of fluid to the vascular system, increasing vascular tension and causing energetic contractions of the heart; and that intra-venous injection of saline solutions in appropriate cases is a more simple and is a safer operation than transfusion of blood, so that, if further experience should confirm the favorable results of such injections, the operation should be held in high esteem as an important therapeutic agent. The writer gives also a description of an apparatus for the ready administration of these injections. Two papers of a statistical nature, one on Double Synchronous Amputations, by Dr. Lynde, of Buffalo, and one on Dislocation of the Hip, based upon 223 cases occurring in New York State, deserve mention. Lastly a paper by Dr. Dennis, of New York City, on the Relations between Tuberculous Joint Diseases and General Tuberculosis, should be noted. This volume of Transactions indicates an unusual activity and earnestness on the part of the members of the Society, which awakens an expectation of much future valuable work. L. S. PILCHER.

UNTERSUCHUNG DER WEIBLICHEN GENITALIEN UND ALLGEMEINE GYNÄKOLOGISCHE THERAPIE. Von Dr. R. CHROBAK, Professor an der Universität Wien. mit 104 Holzschnitten. Stuttgart: Verlag von Ferdinand Enke. 1885. Pp. VIII-278.

This volume, No. 54 of Billroth and Luecke's "Deutsche Chirurgie,"

is from the pen of a writer whose name always carries with it the assurance of careful, conscientious work. Dr. Chrobak has already written so exhaustively upon this same theme in the "Handbuch der Frauenkrankheiten" that a second monograph would seem to be superfluous. A peculiar feature of modern medical literature is the prevalence of cyclopædias. The department of gynecology has been particularly favored in this respect. Although there can be no question as to the value of a series of monographs on this subject by authors of world-wide reputation, it is of no special benefit (to the reader) to add to the number of existing cyclopædias which do not present essential points of difference. However, we should not seek for the *raison d'être* of a book which presents so many excellent features as the one under consideration.

A comparison of the table of contents of this volume and the corresponding one of the "Handbuch," will show that the arrangement of the two books is almost identical; the difference is really only such as would naturally result from the progress of gynecology during the past six years.

The bibliography at the beginning of this volume is unusually exhaustive and is most carefully arranged. Part I., including the first 126 pages, is devoted to examination of the pelvic organs. The order followed by the author is the usual one.

A brief introductory chapter on symptomatology and anamnesis, which is too condensed to be of much value, is followed by some general instructions regarding the manner of conducting the examination. Chapter III. contains a description of the different positions, with the advantages of each. It is rather amusing to note that the author, after referring to the large number of examining tables which have been devised, selects as a representative one a most unsightly object, which would certainly never be tolerated in any American clinic or private office (Fig. 3). The chapters on inspection, palpation and percussion of the abdomen furnish some useful hints, especially regarding the differential diagnosis of tumors of pelvic origin. Pages 30 to 45 contain the clear and excellent description of the method of vaginal and bimanual examination which is found in the author's former treatise. A few changes have been made, and there is a useful addition regarding the examination of the hymen, but the reader will regret to see that Fig. 5 has been preserved as an ideal illustration, since it is both misleading and most unpleasing to the eye.

It is a common fault of manuals of gynecology that they are disposed to lay too little stress upon the frequent difficulties which are encountered in "mapping out" the pelvic organs by the bimanual touch,

It should at least be stated that the distance between the fundus uteri and the surface of the abdomen is quite as often two or three inches as it is one-half inch. A clear understanding of this fact will save the student from many disappointments.

The chapter on the use of the sound remains practically as before, neither will the reader see any improvement in chapter XI., on the "Ocular Inspection of the Genitals."

Chapter XII. treats of the "Dilatation of the Genital Canal," and covers the subject pretty thoroughly. Several pages are devoted to the use of tents; indeed, the author has treated this important topic in a most satisfactory manner. It is to be regretted that he has not been equally exhaustive in his description of the method of instrumental dilatation of the cervix, a procedure so common in this country.

Incision of the cervix is discussed at length, the writer not being very enthusiastic regarding the value of this operation for the cure of sterility and dysmenorrhea. He favors it rather as an aid to more accurate diagnosis in cases of intra-uterine growths. Most of the instruments ordinarily employed are figured (Fig. 39 to Fig. 42, inclusive). Due stress is laid upon the contra-indications, to complications and frequent failure of the operation.

It is rather surprising that the author should still adhere to the old-fashioned method of introducing a styptic tampon into the cervical canal after the operation, when the glass or hard rubber plug is so much cleaner. The cruciform incision of Fritsch, and the plastic methods of Chrobak and Küster are mentioned (pp. 116-117). The description of Schröder's method of "Keil-excision," or removal of a wedge shaped mass from the cervix, would have been rendered much more intelligible by the introduction of one or more drawings.

Chapter XIII. is entitled "Artificial Dislocation of the Uterus," under which ponderous heading the simple process of grasping one lip of the cervix and drawing the organ downwards is described. It will be readily inferred that "artificial prolapse" of the uterus is not usually such a violent proceeding with us as with our German confreres. On page 123 the author figures a complicated apparatus which he has designed for the purpose of exerting a steady and prolonged traction upon old peri-uterine adhesions. It is stated quite confidently that after the claws of this instrument have been attached to the cervix for eight or ten hours (!) "even very firm cicatricial bands are rendered pliant and extensible." No reference is made to the possible consequences which may result from this severely mechanical method of rendering a uterus more movable. The concluding chapter of Part I on diagnosis is short, but exceedingly pithy. We commend it, not only

to beginners but to the experienced. "On the whole," he says in conclusion, "inexpert physicians will make the more positive and often the more uncommon diagnosis. The more experience we have, the less our belief in medical infallibility, the more frequently do we make probable diagnoses and the more rare are so-called 'beautiful' cases."

Part II is introduced by a long preliminary chapter on the principles of uterine therapeutics, including the indications for operations and the best time for performing them. Then follow a short section on anæsthetics and a long one on antiseptics, the latter being new and worthy of careful perusal. There is nothing of particular interest in the chapter on vaginal injections. The usual object aimed at is simply cleanliness, the author explains, although he adds parenthetically that hot water injections have been recommended by several writers for the relief of pelvic inflammation. We have never met with such unpleasant phenomena as Dr. Chrobak describes as often resulting from the use of the vaginal douche. As regards intra-uterine medication it is unnecessary to express disapproval of the syringe as an adjuvant, at least when the cervix is not dilated. The description of the method of applying caustics to the uterine mucous membrane will also be of little interest to American readers, who believe that the same results can be obtained by more merciful treatment. Several pages are devoted to the use of the actual cautery in malignant disease, for the arrest of hæmorrhage, etc.

The chapter on pessaries possesses the common fault of all similar chapters in manuals of gynecology—it is unnecessarily long and describes and figures a number of modifications which simply confuse the general reader and weary the specialist. It is to be hoped that the time will come when the instrument of Zwanck (Fig. 80, page 242) will no longer find a place in even a German treatise. The same might be said with regard to some of the intra-uterine stems figured in this chapter (pages 254 to 257). It should be stated in justice to the author that he does not seem to approve very warmly of the use of these relics of a past civilization.

Short chapters on abdominal bandages, uterine massage and hypodermic medication conclude this volume, which, while it contains much that is useful and instructive, will hardly supplant the similar monographs that are already in the field.

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